

ILLEGIB

NRO review(s) completed.

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The cancellation in April 1964 of the SPO 162, which had been set up under SSD (formerly BMD) to support the DISCOVERER program was proposed by M Director of Program A (SAFSP) in Oct/Nov 1963. X The explanation for the transfer to SPO 241, a newly-formed jproject office under [] reporting directly to General Greer, SAFSP, was the corroded security of the SPO 162 operation which ostensibly was under the command of SSD, but in fact was reXsponsible to NRO, and also the fact that a cover such as DISCOVERER (and SPO 162) had become unnecessary since the promulgation of DOD Directive 5200.13, which had clamped a cover of secrecy on all military satellite operations, thus requiring noK public statements regarding the tests and research achievements accomplished by these programs.

"In summary, it has become quite evident that the original DISCOVERER cover concept has been exploited to its fullest and has outlived its usefulness. Further, because of changes in organizations, working arrangements, and the involvement of the NRO, the DISCOVERER concept was becoming more of a liability in an operating sense than an asset. For these reasons, it was felt appropriate to break away from the DISCOVERER lineage and establish a new program within the special projects environment which would provide protection from external pressures and eliminate a number of difficult working relationships. On the overt side, it is apparent that 162 has achieved the goals it set out to do. It is further apparent that special projects has placed upon it from time to time new and high priority efforts. These readjustments have in the past occurred rapidly and with very little forewarning, e.g. Program []

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(First launch scheduled under SPO 241 set for 15 May 1964.)
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